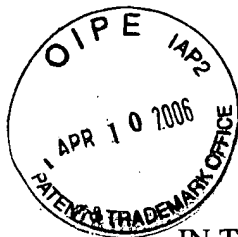


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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04329.3253-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Shinya TAKYU et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2822  
)  
Application No.: 10/787,207 ) Examiner: Kevin M. Picardat  
)  
Filed: February 27, 2004 ) Confirmation No.: 4683  
)  
For: SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER )  
DIVIDING METHOD AND )  
APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed January 10, 2006, the period for response to which extends through April 10, 2006, Applicant responds to the Office Action as follows.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,465,330) ("Takahashi"), in view of Mahle et al. (U.S. Patent Appl. No. 2005/0003633) ("Mahle"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reason that Mahle does not constitute prior art.

Applicant notes that the filing dates of Takahashi and Mahle are August 18, 1999, and July 2, 2003, respectively. While the filing date in the U.S. of the present application